HALIFAX metro®



'We were barely coping'

Parents of Amber Kirwan testify as murder trial begins PAGE 3

Sooo ... we gonna get to buy ironic glasses or what?

Urban Outfitters opening rumoured PAGE 5

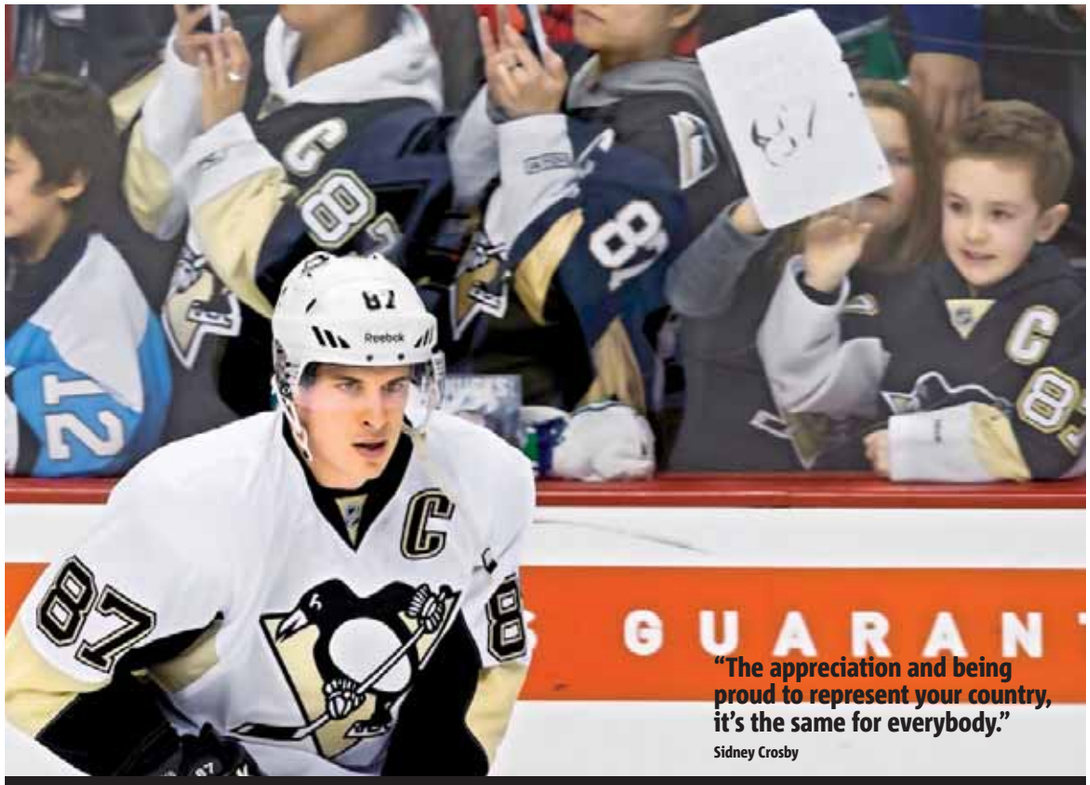
Sticking with what they know

Moose quiet as QMJHL trade window closes PAGE 18

BREAKOUT ROLE AMID AN ALL-STAR CAST

JULIANNE NICHOLSON STARS IN AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY ALONGSIDE MCGREGOR, STREEP, ROBERTS, CUMBERBATCH ... PAGE 12

Crosby hoping to maintain golden lustre



"The appreciation and being proud to represent your country, it's the same for everybody."
Sidney Crosby

Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby, who is from Cole Harbour, takes part in the pre-game skate before Tuesday night's game against the Vancouver Canucks in Vancouver. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sid the Kid. Pride of Cole Harbour named to Olympic hockey team for second time



CAM TUCKER
Metro in Vancouver

It was hardly a shock when Sidney Crosby's name was called out.

The pride of Cole Harbour and the Golden Goal hero of the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, Crosby was named to Canada's hockey team at the roster unveiling Tuesday morning.

If there was ever a lock to make the team destined for the 2014 Sochi Olympics, it was Crosby, so long as he remained healthy.

Kevin Lowe, part of Hockey Canada's brain trust and president of hockey operations in Edmonton, called Crosby to relay the news.

The roster announcement out of Toronto coincided with Tuesday's game between the Vancouver Canucks and Pittsburgh Penguins. It marked the first time Crosby played a game in Rogers Arena — it was Canada Hockey Place four years ago — since that memorable afternoon in February of 2010.

"I think in anticipation, you definitely get excited. I think I'm just as excited as everyone else," Crosby told a massive group of reporters.

"Everyone talks about how you kind of expect to be there, but honestly it doesn't get old."

Canada goes into the competition as the reigning gold medal champs. But it didn't fare so well on international ice in the 2006 Olympics.

"I think everyone's well aware that it's been a while since Canada's done well on the big ice," said Crosby.

Hockey Canada's Olympic management group and coaching staff has not named a captain for this year's team, although it's a good bet Crosby is at or near the top of the list of candidates.

"Just looking back to 2010, seeing guys like (Chris Pronger, Scott Niedermayer and Jarome Iginla) and the way they led our team, but it would be a great honour," said Crosby.

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 19

Earning his way

118

The number of points Sidney Crosby is projected to record this season with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

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Kirwan bound, stabbed in brutal killing: Crown

Chistopher Falconer. Case against teen's accused killer begins



Donald and Majorie Kirwan speak to reporters about their daughter Amber when she was reported missing in the fall of 2011. Inset: Amber Kirwan.
NEW GLASGOW NEWS; CONTRIBUTED

Amber Kirwan's naked body was left face down off a rural road outside New Glasgow after she was bound, stabbed repeatedly and bled to death, the Crown said Tuesday at the murder trial of the man accused in her slaying.

Bill Gorman outlined the Crown's case against Christopher Alexander Falconer, who has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder in the death of the 19-year-old.

Gorman said Kirwan's wrists were bound by rope woven together with a sweater following her disappearance after leaving a pool hall in New Glasgow in the early morning hours of Oct. 9, 2011. Her body was discovered in a wooded area in Pictou County nearly a month later.

"You are going to hear evidence that Amber Kirwan was stabbed multiple times, defensive wounds on her hands, and that she was found face down in a clandestine grave," Gorman told the jury in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

Kirwan's parents, Marjorie and Donald, were the first witnesses called to the stand by Gorman.

Marjorie Kirwan said her daughter was very open with her and not a risk taker, to the point where she didn't like to walk alone at night.

She said she first learned Amber had not returned home after checking a Facebook message the girl's boyfriend Mason Campbell sent to Amber's aunt. She said she later received a phone call from Campbell who told her Amber was missing, but she couldn't contact her husband because he was working. She said she and her husband then went to file a missing person's report with police before they checked the local hospital and then joined Campbell to search the area where Amber was last seen.

Marjorie Kirwan said the ensuing days were much the same for Amber's family and friends.

"Every day we would jump in the car, walk the streets looking for her," she said. "We were barely coping with that little bit of hope."

She said it all ended on Nov. 5, 2011, when police arrived at her home to tell her the "crushing" news they had found Amber's body.

Donald Kirwan described his daughter as the "light of his life" and said she was a timid girl that didn't like to walk to her job at a local hardware store that was only minutes from the family home.

He described the days after Amber went missing as "kind of a blur."

Both parents said as far as they knew, their daughter didn't know the accused.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I didn't think the worst because if I thought the worst, I would have went nuts."

Donald Kirwan, Amber Kirwan's father



Christopher Falconer
NEW GLASGOW NEWS



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Police looking for new leads in backyard-shooting homicide



Police in the area between 58 and 56 Primrose St. in Dartmouth. The area was scoured the day after for evidence in a fatal shooting that happened on Jan. 7, 2013. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Darmouth. Raymond Peters shot in backyard of home



HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Halifax police are hoping those who have information about the shooting of Raymond Floyd Peters come forward, a year after the 24-year-old's death.

Peters, 24, was shot in the backyard of a home on Primrose Street in Dartmouth after getting into a fight with several men on Jan. 7, 2013 around 5:20 p.m.

After being shot, police say Peters ran to an address on Jackson Road to take refuge in an apartment. Paramedics arrived and rushed Peters to hospital, where he died.

"We do believe there are people who know something about this," said police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages on Tuesday.

"Locating these individuals, and getting them to provide what they know to police is a challenge, especially when we don't know who they are."

Police say the suspect who shot Peters was described as a black man in his 20s and about five foot eight. He was said to be wearing a navy blue hoodie and black pants at the time, and escaped in a small white car.

Bourdages said police are looking for any information on the shooter's identity, but don't know where he might be found until they know who he is.

"That's the ultimate goal. We want to bring the person responsible for this death to justice," Bourdages said.

He added that police haven't determined a motive behind the murder.

Those with information who have yet to speak with investigators are asked to contact police or Crime Stoppers.

In numbers

6

Raymond Peters was the first of six homicides in 2013. Police say four of those have been solved, and two remain unsolved.

Oil truck in Dartmouth faced with icy HRM roads overturns

Police say icy driving conditions caused a slew of car accidents Tuesday morning, including an oil truck that overturned in Dartmouth, creating traffic issues across the city.

Halifax Regional Police spokesman, Const. Pierre Bourdages, said the fuel truck tipped over on Pleasant Street just past Belmont Avenue around 9 a.m.

The driver suffered only minor injuries, Bourdages said.

The area was closed to traffic until 11:20 a.m. while fire crews work at cleaning up the "small spill," Bourdages said, but he wasn't sure how much had leaked from the truck.

Bourdages said there were about 16 accidents throughout HRM between 8 and 10 a.m. Tuesday due to slippery roads, but only minor injures were reported.

"The temperature unfortunately dropped very fast and turned all the water we had on the roads into ice," Bourdages said.

He said the salt trucks are improving the road conditions but police are still advising people to slow down and leave extra room between cars while driving.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



An oil truck lies on its side in Dartmouth Tuesday morning. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Announcement

Police change '13 murder stats

Halifax police are lowering the total number of HRM homicides in 2013 from eight to six. Police announced on Tuesday that they are making the change after releasing crime statistics in late 2013.

METRO

Foul play not suspected

Dead fisherman's ID released

RCMP have released the identity of a man whose body was found near the shoreline of a Nova Scotia fishing community after he went out to break the ice around his boat.

Police say they received a report around 1 a.m. Monday about a man who failed to return from working on the ice.

Police say emergency crews and a helicopter were dispatched to Stonehurst near Blue Rocks in Lunenburg County.

They say searchers found 79-year-old Elburn Leo Tanner submerged near the shore at about 5:30 a.m.

Police do not suspect foul play. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Accident

Woman hit by truck in Halifax

A 50-year-old woman suffered minor injuries after being hit by a truck at an intersection in Halifax on Tuesday evening. Police were called to Lacewood Drive and Sumac Lane around 5 p.m.

METRO

Winter driving

Police's traffic unit will be looking for snow-covered cars

Driving this winter? Make sure to clean that snow off your vehicle.

Halifax police say its traffic unit will be concentrating its efforts in January on driving appropriately for the winter weather, which includes making sure all snow and ice is off your car.

Police say they'll also be out making sure people are driving appropriately for the road conditions.

METRO

On the web

For more local news go to metronews.ca

Crosswalks. Controversial campaign could come back

A municipal committee is suggesting the return of the dramatic and somewhat controversial "Distractions Kill" crosswalk-safety awareness campaign.

The Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee met Tuesday to continue refining elements of the multi-faceted crosswalk-safety plan.

After a discussion of several recommendations to be made in education, engineering and enforcement, the committee agreed to recommend the return of the ad campaign three times next year, for an estimated cost of $80,000.

"I'm not crazy about the Distractions Kill campaign, however, running it for the one season isn't enough to know if it's effective," said deputy chair Janet Barlow. "Something is better than nothing ... let's take what we have and see what happens."

Although there was some concern over the perceived "harsh" nature of the campaign — which features images of bleeding bodies in crosswalks — the committee agreed reusing it was a better use of resources than coming up with something new.


Coun. Barry Dalrymple METRO FILE

"I think we have a much better chance of getting that approved by council in the budget … than if we go back and say we want to change the ads," said committee chair Coun. Barry Dalrymple. "That's a lot of dollars."

The committee is now getting into specifics, beginning to finalize costs and approaches.

Dalrymple told the members the final plan is getting close, but it must finalized by the end of the month in order to be included in this year's budget deliberations.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

Pearson. 'Ground stop' spurs Halifax backlog

A backlog of passengers at Halifax Stanfield International Airport is slowly starting to clear, but a spokesperson says travelers should still check their flight status before heading to the airport.

Peter Spurway said the halt on all incoming flights to Toronto's Pearson International Airport Tuesday morning caused significant delays in Halifax.

"We were probably the fifth-largest town in Nova Scotia this morning," he said Tuesday afternoon.

By 4 p.m., Spurway said the delayed flights were moving again, and departure boards were showing fewer cancelled and delayed flights — but he said it could take another 24 hours for Pearson to return to normal.

Literally and figuratively

"We're starting to get there."

Halifax airport spokesperson Peter Spurway

"Our departure and arrival boards are slowly starting to become less colorful," he said.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

Serious car crash. Three people critically injured

Three people were airlifted to a Halifax hospital with critical injuries after a car and SUV crashed on Highway 325 in Lunenburg County on Tuesday.

The accident between the SUV and a Ford car took place at 3:20 p.m. in the community of Oakhill. All three people inside the car were flown to the QEII Health Sciences Centre in Halifax, police say.

The driver and passenger inside the SUV suffered undetermined injuries and were taken to South Shore Regional Hospital.

Highway 325 was shut down for several hours as police investigated the crash. METRO



Welcome, li'l one

RCMP Sgt. Alain Leblanc waves to Allana Navida, age 7, after a ceremony where she was sworn in as a Canadian citizen at RCMP headquarters in Burnside on Tuesday. About 50 new Canadians were sworn in during the ceremony.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

Urban legend or urbane shoppers?

Urban Outfitters. To Barrington or not to be, that is the question for eager Haligonians hearing rumours of a spring store opening

Despite rumours and lots of social-media buzz surrounding a recent report that Urban Outfitters is set to open a store in downtown Halifax this spring, neither the landlord nor clothing chain have confirmed it's going ahead.

On Tuesday, many people tweeted their excitement after a local media outlet reported the major U.S. retailer would be opening shop on Barrington Street in the old Sam the Record Man space owned by Starfish Properties.

However, Paul MacKinnon of the Downtown Halifax Business Commission said fans of the store shouldn't be planning a shopping list just yet.

"I haven't heard either way," MacKinnon said Tuesday afternoon.

Urban Outfitters opened in 1972 in Philadelphia, Penn., under the name Free People. Their clothing has been described as bohemian and retro, and they also sell home decor.

According to their website, there are 14 Urban Outfitters stores in Canada with the most eastern in Quebec City.

Quoted

"To get another national chain would be great but I'd also love to see a brand new store pop up."

Paul MacKinnon, of the Downtown Halifax Business Commission


The former site of Sam the Record Man on Barrington Street.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

MacKinnon said there have been rumours for a long time about who might take over the building, and the Urban Outfitters theory seems popular.

"We're anticipating that there's going to be exciting tenants in there but we haven't heard from Starfish," MacKinnon said.

Starfish Properties and Urban Outfitters did not return requests for comment on Tuesday.

Some discussion online surrounded whether or not a national chain would be a good option for Barrington, with some saying a bigger store would hurt independent shops.

But MacKinnon said a vibrant street needs a balance of both, and any new store would benefit a downtown area that has mostly bars and restaurants.

He also pointed to Spring Garden Road's success after Lululemon moved into the area, and it's "always a good sign" when a national store wants to set up downtown.

"More retail would be great," MacKinnon said. "If we have a number of clothing shops it makes the trip downtown more worthwhile."

HALEY RYAN/METRO

Council to begin budget deliberations

Halifax regional council will kick off its 2014-15 budget deliberations Wednesday with an initial overview of the municipality's financial standing.

A presentation from the CAO suggests major cost pressures in the next year will come from compensation packages — specifically pension plans, the operating costs of new capital, and transit expansion.

The report also states business units will be asked to find $20 million in savings.

During the same meeting, council will hear from Metro Transit officials asking for approval to change the scope of the current five-year plan to an "overall system review."

A report from staff states that participants in the public consultation showed "overwhelming support" for a move towards a simplified, transfer-based transit network, and recommends broadening the scope of the review. RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

Did you look up from a screen to read this?

Odds are you did, says a recent report. Half of Canadians say they spend close to 90% of their free time staring at a TV, tablet or smartphone



Canadian smartphone owners spend an average of about 86 per cent of their free time looking at one of their many screens, a recently released poll suggests. ISTOCK

Canadian smartphone owners estimate they spend an average of nearly 90 per cent of their free time staring at one of the many screens they own, suggests a recently released report.

In an online poll of 28,000 Canadians — conducted in August by Ipsos on behalf of Google — half the respondents said they owned a smartphone. Of the smartphone users, 99 per cent also had a computer, 88 per cent had a TV, and 39 per cent had a tablet.

Smartphone owners admitted that they'd peg their screen time, including watching TV, using a computer, tablet or e-reader at about 86 per cent of their free time.

On the flip side, they figured they spent only 14 per cent of their leisure time daily listening to the radio, reading a printed page or enjoying other non-digital activities.

On average, smartphone owners said they spent about an hour and a half each day on their phone for personal use, with about 56 per cent happening outside the home.

Tablet owners said they were using their device for about an hour and 15 minutes daily, and three-quarters of that usage was at home.

Computer users said they spent three hours and 10 minutes working or playing on a PC daily in their personal time, including an hour away from home.

When asked about using their devices simultaneously — for example, swiping and tapping on a phone or tablet while watching TV — 87 per cent said they do it at least once a week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the other hand...

Multi-tasking users were most likely to be on their phone while watching TV, followed by a pairing of using their phone and their computer together, and then using their tablet while channel surfing.

- Half of all TV viewers said they always have their phone, tablet or computer with them while looking for something to watch.

Vancouver. Protesters who disrupted Harper event won't be charged

Vancouver police say they won't be pursuing criminal charges against two climate-change protesters who came within touching distance of Prime Minister Stephen Harper on a stage at an event in Vancouver.

The protesters, who have publicly identified themselves as Sean Devlin and Shireen Soofi, walked on stage during a Vancouver Board of Trade question-and-answer event at a downtown hotel on Monday.

They were quickly removed and the event carried on, but the stunt raised questions about how two activists could get that close to Harper.

Sgt. Randy Fincham said Vancouver police consulted with the RCMP and decided not to recommend charges.

"After consultation with both (the RCMP and the Crown), it was determined that it wasn't in the public's best interest to pursue an investigation into criminal charges," Fincham said in an interview Tuesday.

On Monday, the activists each held up a sign attacking Harper's record on climate change. One sign said "Climate Justice Now," while the other featured a dark line crossed through the phrase "Conservatives Take Climate Change Seriously." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Prime Minister Stephen Harper's security keeps watch during his arrival at the Shell Aerocentre during his Western tour in North Saanich, B.C., Monday. CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. woman who assisted with mom's suicide gets time served



Shirley Vann, left, her daughter Linda Jean McNall and their two dogs are shown in this family photo. A U.S. mental health advocate hopes an Arizona woman who admits she helped her mother commit suicide in Canada will continue to get care if she's deported. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

An Alberta judge has agreed that an American woman who pleaded guilty to helping her mother kill herself should not have to spend any more time behind bars.

Judge Charles Gardener sentenced Linda Jean McNall to eight months of time already served on the rare charge of aiding suicide in the death of her 79-year-old mother, Shirley Vann. That was the recommendation made by both the Crown and the defence.

Court heard details about a suicide pact McNall made with Vann. Both had health problems and had cared for one another for decades.

Last spring, after Vann's health deteriorated, they sold their belongings, left behind mounting medical bills and drove from Sierra Vista, Ariz., to Canada's Rocky Mountains.

They pitched a tent near Hinton, 300 kilometres west of Edmonton, injected themselves and their two pet dogs with insulin, swallowed sleeping pills and opened a propane tank. Vann and the animals died, but McNall, 53, survived.

McNall, who had worked as a nurse, pleaded guilty to the crime last month. The sentence means McNall, who still suffers from depression and was being treated at Alberta Hospital, will be deported to Arizona.

McNall's lawyer, Laura Stevens, said her client will spend the night in jail in Edmonton and will be flown back to Phoenix on Wednesday. There, Stevens said, her client is scheduled to be evaluated by a case worker and a crisis management team.

Gardener noted the progress McNall had been making recently at Alberta Hospital after two more suicide attempts while there.

"I take some comfort that your condition is improving," he told McNall, who was seated in the prisoner's box. "I hope you will receive some ongoing treatment and comfort ... and that you eventually find worth and value in your life."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta. Man likely to face attempted murder charge after shootout with RCMP

RCMP say a man who was wounded in a shootout with Mounties on a farm east of Edmonton will likely face attempted murder and firearms charges.

One officer had his arm grazed by a bullet and another was run over by a truck driven by the suspect, who had been hiding in a shed.

The officer who was run over suffered broken bones and internal injuries and was undergoing surgery at an Edmonton hospital Tuesday afternoon.

Police said a couple arrested on the farm with the alleged gunman were later released without being charged.

The alleged gunman was in hospital being treated for gunshot wounds.

The wounded suspect was arrested after a lengthy standoff.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mexico City

2 Canadian women arrested in alleged firebomb attack

Two Canadian women have been arrested in Mexico City in connection with a firebomb attack on a government transportation department office and a car dealership. A Mexican man was also detained.

Prosecutors say the three face possible charges of causing damages to the office and the nearby car dealership.

The motive in the attack was not immediately clear.

Some Mexico City banks have been hit in recent years by small incendiary devices.

Those attacks have been attributed to small groups of leftists or animal rights activists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Congrats! Washing machine gives birth to fully grown man

Oil's well that ends well. Nude Australian extricated from washer using prized olive oil

A naked Australian man who became stuck in a washing machine as part of an ill-planned practical joke was freed from the appliance with the help of an unusual rescue device: olive oil.

The 20-year-old man, identified only as "Laurence," told Australia's Fairfax Radio that he was on his way to take a shower on Saturday when he decided to climb into the top-loader to have a bit of fun. The fun quickly evaporated, however, when he realized he couldn't budge.

He called out to his friend for help, who rang the police. They responded to the scene, along with firefighters, paramedics and a search-and-rescue squad.

"He was very well wedged in there, and we were concerned for his health and well-being," Shepparton Police Sgt. Michelle De Araugo told the Shepparton News. "It was just a game gone wrong. It would be fair to say the gentleman was very embarrassed."

Priorities

"I was quite disappointed they used my good olive oil."

Would-be prankster 'Laurence'

Rescuers tried in vain to pull Laurence from the machine. But when it became clear he was seriously stuck, they grabbed a bottle of his favourite olive oil to help lubricate his escape.

The oil worked, and he popped out.

"I was quite disappointed they used my good olive oil," Laurence told Fairfax Radio. "As soon as the washing machine went on its side, it was a bit like a birthing." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Can't-sea otter finds safe home at Vancouver Aquarium

Walter, a sea otter blinded by a shotgun in October, was moved from the Marine Mammal Rescue Centre to the Vancouver Aquarium on Tuesday after he was deemed not-releasable into the wild. The otter suffered multiple shattered bones in his flipper and needed oral surgery to treat damage caused by the shotgun pellets. Veterinarians were unable to save Walter's eyesight. SINDHU DHARMARAJAH/METRO IN VANCOUVER

Kraft at a loss for curds. Not-cheese may be not available for few weeks

Playoff parties may have one fewer dip option this year.

Kraft Foods says some customers may not be able to find Velveeta cheese over the next few weeks. A representative for the company, Jody Moore, didn't give any reasons for the apparent shortage, saying only that they happen from time to time given the "nature of manufacturing."

She noted that the lack of availability is more noticeable because of the seasonal demand during the NFL playoffs. The company has been airing TV commercials featuring a recipe for a chili con queso dip made with Velveeta.

Moore says it should be a short-term situation and that Kraft hasn't yet heard from any customers who are having problems finding the product. She did not say whether the company experienced a similar shortage last year.

Whey your options

The shortage affects only the Velveeta hard cheese products, but was not limited to a specific area.

- "It is possible consumers in any part of the country may not be able to find some Velveeta products," company representative Jody Moore said in an email.

The trade publication Ad Age reported the issue Tuesday, quoting an employee at a Brooklyn-area grocery store who didn't expect shipments again until February due to "a plant issue."

Kraft Foods Group Inc., based in Northfield, Ill., owns many brands, including Jell-O, Oscar Mayer and Maxwell House. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Kraft Foods didn't give any reasons for the apparent shortage of Velveeta products over the next few weeks. PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Dude, what did you eat? Radioactive diapers set off alarms at incinerator

Austrian hazmat specialists have discovered why gauges showed alarmingly high readings for a dump truck — radioactive adult diapers.

After unloading the truck, firefighters from the hazardous-materials unit of the city of Linz found nearly two dozen diapers from a hospital that had become contaminated with radioactive iodine. The substance is swallowed during some medical and diagnostic procedures.

While radiation levels were substantially above normal, officials say no one was in danger during Tuesday's incident.

However, the truck will stay in a metal container for eight days — the time it takes for the emissions to reach safe levels. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big bell, tough sell

On a ring and a prayer — stolen bell worth $20,000 brought back to Anglican church

A bell worth more than $20,000 that was stolen from a Newfoundland and Labrador church has been returned.

Holy Innocents Anglican Church in Paradise says the 600-pound bell was taken from the church on Friday, prompting a public plea for its return.

Deacon Keith Sheppard says police were contacted on Monday by a scrap-metal business that had been approached to purchase the bell.

Sheppard says the bell, which has been slightly damaged, is back in their possession and stored away.

It was set to be installed on the church in the spring.

The police investigation is ongoing. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snow struck

Stranded trains arrive in Chicago

Hundreds of Amtrak passengers who spent the night aboard three trains stranded in snow in northern Illinois have begun to arrive in Chicago, rail line officials said Tuesday morning.

About 300 passengers on two trains that were stuck near Mendota, about 130 kilometres from Chicago, boarded buses in Princeton for the final leg of their trip, said Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari. They began arriving in downtown Chicago around 7 a.m. Tuesday and more were expected to arrive throughout the morning.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Icy seas

Chinese ship breaks free

A Chinese icebreaker that became trapped last week after coming to the rescue of a Russian research ship stuck in heavy sea ice in Antarctica broke free on Tuesday, state media reported. The Xue Long, or Snow Dragon, reported becoming trapped on Friday, a day after its helicopter rescued 52 scientists, journalists and tourists on board the Russian Akademik Shokalskiy, which got into trouble on Christmas Eve. They were then transferred to an Australian icebreaker to take them home. It escaped after making a 100-degree turn and pushing away the ice, thereby splitting it and opening up a channel of water. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Report

Disasters killed more people last year: Insurer

The German insurance company Munich Re says some 20,000 people died in natural disasters last year, about twice as many as in 2012.

Most of the deaths resulted from Typhoon Haiyan that hit the Philippines, Vietnam and China in November with a loss of almost 6,100 lives. Also taking a deadly toll were floods in India, which killed about 5,500 people in June. Munich Re's annual disasters report released Tuesday found that the economic cost of natural catastrophes was lower last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Life-threatening polar freeze descends over parts of U.S.

Indiana. At least 15,000 people were without power early Tuesday, and officials warned some could be in the cold for days

Brutal cold settled over parts of the U.S., sending the mercury plummeting Tuesday from New York and Washington to Atlanta, Nashville and Birmingham, where many people have little experience dealing with freezing weather.

The morning weather map for the eastern half of the U.S. looked like an algebra worksheet: lots of small, negative numbers. In fact, the Midwest and the East were colder than much of Antarctica.

Georgia, where the temperature dropped into the single digits, was colder than many cities in Alaska. While Kodiak and Juneau registered 4 and Anchorage was at -2, Atlanta dipped to -14 degrees early in the morning, or nearly 17 degrees below the average low this time of year.

"This is severely cold for these parts," said Brian Lynn, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Peachtree City, Ga.

Farther south in Pensacola, Fla., a Gulf Coast city better known for its white sand beaches than frost, streets normally filled with joggers, bikers and people walking dogs were deserted early Tuesday as the morning remained in the negative teens. Downtown, Monica Anderson and Tommy Howard jumped up and down and blew on their hands while they waited for a bus, struggling to stay warm.

Anderson said she couldn't recall it ever being so cold.

"I'm not used to it. It is best just to stay inside until it gets better," said Anderson.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The cold weather makes vision challenging as Jobin Curoe's glasses fog up while walking in temperatures and wind chills reaching -40 to -50 C on the Lawrence University campus on Monday.

SHARON CEKADA/THE POST-CRESCENT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prison brrr-eak

Fugitive too cold to get far, gives up

Just how cold is it in the U.S.? Apparently cold enough for an escaped prisoner to turn himself in. Authorities say the inmate escaped from a minimum security facility in Kentucky on Sunday. As temperatures dropped far below freezing Monday, they say he walked into a motel and asked the clerk to call police. Lexington police spokeswoman Sherelle Roberts says 42-year-old Robert Vick told the clerk he wanted to turn himself in and escape the arctic air. Roberts says Vick was checked out by paramedics and returned to Blackburn Correctional Complex.

Extreme cold causes delays at Toronto airport



Frustrated passengers line up during flight delays and cancellations due to extreme cold weather and wind chill at Pearson International Airport in Toronto on Tuesday. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Extreme cold in the Toronto area, where temperatures plunged to about -40 C overnight with the wind chill, caused a rash of delays and flight cancellations Tuesday at Pearson International Airport.

The airport put a so-called ground freeze on all North American arrivals through the morning, but it was lifted at 10 a.m. More than 600 flights were cancelled throughout the day and many more were delayed.

The freeze was put in place because of the extreme cold's effects on equipment and efforts to minimize time outdoors for employees, said Greater Toronto Airports Authority spokeswoman Shereen Daghstani.

"It was the extreme weather conditions that impacted safe operations and employee safety," she said. "When it comes to refuelling or removing the bags, those need to be done by employees."

The problems were reportedly compounded by a backlog of planes waiting for gates to open to off-load passengers, travellers waiting hours to collect their luggage and long lineups snaking through Pearson's terminals.

Robert Palmer, spokesman for WestJet, said the company's planes couldn't take off Monday night, creating a bottleneck at the gates.

"As soon as a gate became available, we would push a plane to that gate, we would let the people off. We did not take their baggage off because that would've taken extra time and meanwhile there was a lineup of people in planes waiting to get off the plane," he said.

Connie Smith said she'd dealt with several weather-related delays and missed connections on her journey from Edmonton back to her home in Newfoundland. She and her husband were stranded overnight in Toronto. "This is horrible, just the waiting and the lineups. It should be more organized," she said as her husband stood in line at a service counter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada Goose gets pecked back over trademark lawsuit

Statement of defence.
Feathers are flying as companies hiss at each other over allegations of selling knockoff parkas


Canada Goose parkas are known for a circular logo on its sleeve, fur hood and hefty price tag. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada Goose is trying to "bully" Sears Canada Inc. and other retailers through litigation, Sears is alleging in court documents as it hits back at a trademark infringement lawsuit.

The parka maker's real motive is to curtail the sales of lower-priced winter jackets so Canada Goose can keep selling its products "at a huge markup," Sears alleges.

Canada Goose alleges in a lawsuit filed late last year that Sears is selling knockoffs of its highly distinctive coats.

The department store has now filed its statement of defence in Federal Court and is taking direct aim not just at this particular lawsuit, but what the retailer calls Canada Goose's "campaign of intimidation."

Canada Goose is trying to claim the exclusive right to sell any winter coat with a fur collar "of any sort" or with a circular logo on its sleeve, Sears alleges in its statement of defence.

Neither Sears' nor Canada Goose's allegations have been proven in court.

Canada Goose alleges that Sears is intentionally trying to mislead consumers into believing they're buying a "lower-end" Canada Goose jacket, the parka maker alleges in its lawsuit.

In its statement of defence, Sears says no consumer could confuse a Canada Goose jacket with Sears' Alpinetek coats. Sears has held a trademark for the Alpinetek logo since 1998, Sears wrote in its defence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Apptacular sales

Apple's app store tops $10B in 2013


The Angry Birds Star Wars app helped Apple set records. SCREENGRAB

Apple says people spent more than $10 billion US in its app store last year, on apps such as Minecraft, Angry Birds Star Wars and Sleep Cycle alarm clock.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
92.83¢ (-1.05¢)

TSX
13,596.93 (+101.39)

OIL
$93.67 US (+$0.24)

GOLD
$1,229.60 US (-$8.40)

Natural gas: $4.33 US (+$0.03)
Dow Jones: 16,530.94 (+105.84)



Crystal (glass) clear sound

Members of the media photograph a glass speaker called Clio during the International Consumer Electronics Show Sunday in Las Vegas. The speaker, produced by ClearView Audio, uses a single piece of curved millimetre-thick acrylic glass that sits on a dock which vibrates it in a finely tuned way so that it can play music. JULIE JACOBSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE



JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

You have to feel sorry for Michael Bay.

Not because he's the director of epic Hollywood stinkers such as the Transformers movies and classic clunkers such as Pearl Harbour and Bad Boys II.

No, we have to send Michael a hug because he has suffered through the worst experience ever. There he was at the giant Consumer Electronics Show in Vegas on Monday, presenting on behalf of the 105-inch, curved-screen TV from Samsung, when he lost his place on the teleprompter and couldn't find it again.

After stammering and shuffling for the world's longest minute, he walked off the stage, leaving the Samsung guy holding the bag.

An ignominious retreat for the whiz kid who learned at the knees of George Lucas and Steven Spielberg to become one of the richest Masters of Tinsel Town, worth more than $400 million, according to Celebrity Net Worth.

The other reason we should feel sorry for Michael Bay is that nobody else is. Going mute at the world's foremost consumer electronics show is bad enough, but the peanut gallery is howling with delight.

Someone said he only did what so many before him have wanted to do: walk out of a Michael Bay production. Someone else observed that it was the first time he seemed uncomfortable without a script.

Whoa. Tough crowd.

And that's going to make it tougher for the 75 per cent of us who fear public speaking more than death itself. Yes, that's true. Glossophobia, as the fear of public speaking is called, is the No. 1 phobia, beating out the fear of death, and No. 3, fear of spiders. Jerry Seinfeld once observed that at a funeral, most of us would rather be in the casket instead of giving the eulogy.

Even if it's just standing in front of the class to spell glossophobia, most of us would rather die. My first real bout with stage fright happened in Grade 8, when I was required to stand in front of a packed school gym and play Moon River on the trombone. Somehow I got through the whole thing even though the sheet music kept slipping off the stand. But I kept thinking: There are two people in the audience who actually want to hear this, and I'm only sure about one of them (my mother).

No word on whether Michael Bay's mother was in the audience at CES, but it's a good idea for the jackals to remember that he has one, and she must be suffering agonies for her boy. For the sake of his mother, get off his case.

And if that doesn't move you to sympathy, you can at least learn from this ghastly experience. The next time you have to stand in front of an audience, before you go on, remember what happened to Michael Bay.

If that doesn't cause you to break into a flop sweat, nothing will.

ZOOM

Poached in their safe haven



COURTESY TIM WATTERS/SEA SHEPHERD AUSTRALIA

Protected whales seen captured

Activists have released rare photographs of protected whales killed by a Japanese fleet inside an internationally recognized ocean sanctuary.

Anti-whaling campaign group Sea Shepherd captured aerial footage of three minke whales' bloodied carcasses lying on the deck of Japanese vessel Nisshin Maru. **METRO**

Japan has loophole in moratorium

The images, purportedly taken inside the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary in Antarctica's Ross Dependency, have drawn international criticism from activists and politicians. Commercially hunting whales is banned in the region, but Japanese fleets allegedly capture the animals under a "scientific research" loophole in the moratorium on whaling. **METRO**



The image released by Sea Shepherd shows a bloodied deck of the Japanese whaling vessel Nisshin Maru. CONTRIBUTED

Surveillance

- The chairman of Sea Shepherd Australia says there is no oversight from the federal government.
- Last month, Australia's environment minister said there would be a plane sent to monitor the operation. Prior to the election, he said there would be a ship.

Clickbait



IRENE KUAN
Metro Online



Tech giants at the 2014 Consumer's Electronics Show in Las Vegas showed off their latest innovations in high-tech appliances from wireless, app-based plant monitors to a robot vacuum. Here are some highlights of home gadgets meant to make your life easier. CONTRIBUTED

Parrot Flower Power wireless plant monitor:

Ever wonder if your plant is parched or when its light intensity or temperature isn't quite right? With the Parrot Flower device, you can monitor and analyze the growth conditions of your flowery friends via a Bluetooth-equipped sensor that sends information to your smartphone or tablet using an app.

Smart Hom-Bot vacuum system:

This high-tech vacuum system is meant to make your life more convenient with the ability to map out your home to ensure a more effective cleaning path. The duel lenses on the appliance can snap images of your home and can remember the positioning of objects to sense when an area is already clean. It can also help clean air in the home via a HEPA filter, according to LG.

Panasonic's nanoe wet dry hair dryer:

A hair dryer may not seem all that impressive next to the many high-tech devices and gadgets at CES, but what makes Panasonic's nanoe hair dryer stand out is that it has the ability to add moisture to hair while drying it. According to Panasonic, the dryer breaks blown ions down before infusing them with moisture so imagine drying your tresses without having to worry about drying them out.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Team Canada announced its roster for Sochi Olympics. Who would you have liked to see make the cut?

@KurtPenner: I would have picked Marty St Louis! #heart #consistency #goals #speedy #jiltedlasttime

@BergysAWarrior: #Looch deserved to be on #TeamCanada who wouldn't want a guy that can change a game with either a huge hit or by scoring a highlight goal :(

@alexisannna: I'm so sad about #Seabs and #Crow not making team canada but on the bright side #Sharp, #Toews and #Keith made it. #Sochi2014 #TeamCanada

@kfox9611: #TeamCanada should've brought Joe Thornton.. Imagine he scored 4 goals in the Olympics... #JumboJoe

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Send us your comments: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

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Grammys



Daft Punk GETTY IMAGES FILE

Daft Punk to perform with Stevie Wonder

For a group that had one of the top albums of the past year, Daft Punk has been keeping a low profile — even lower than the duo's disguise-happy public persona would suggest.

Since releasing their hit Random Access Memories in May, the helmeted ones haven't even performed live in front of an audience.

But when you're nominated for five Grammys, that's kind of a command performance, especially when one of those nominations is for Album of the Year.

In the grand tradition of unlikely Grammy pairings that actually make a lot of musical sense, Daft Punk will be performing with Motown legend Stevie Wonder, the show's executive producer Ken Ehrlich told Rolling Stone.

Rolling Stone also reported that Pharrell Williams and Nile Rodgers will perform with Daft Punk, so you can expect a rendition of their mega-hit, Get Lucky. METRO

Pack A.D. to engage new fans with Do Not Engage

Shift in sound.
Garage-rock duo push for a bigger audience with latest album



Vancouver garage-rock duo the Pack A.D., from left, Maya Miller and Becky Black. CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver garage-rock duo the Pack A.D. finally cleaved their way onto Canadian airwaves with 2011's Unpersons, a record that strayed far from the skeletal hard blues that marked their early work.

With Do Not Engage — out Jan. 28 — the band is pushing its newfound tunefulness even further, and the duo is blunt when asked to describe the shift in sound.

"Now our songs have things like choruses," said drummer Maya Miller during a recent chat in Toronto. "They never used to. Truthfully, they do have more melodies now."

Shedding their nascent primal-blues leanings almost completely, the Pack A.D. here channel the melodic fuzz of '90s post-grunge and lo-fi for a concise set of 11 songs that recall a range of influences including the Breeders, the Grifters and Superchunk.

There's still variety within that framework. "There's no real consistency but I kind of like that," singer Becky Black muses, but the common thread is a new accessibility.

And that pop craft arrived at a fortuitous time for the band, seemingly perched on the cusp of a breakthrough.

Since Unpersons came out, they became Juno Award nominees for breakthrough group (natch), signed with Nettwerk Records — such a sufficiently large label that Black marvels "there's a lot more people to remember" — and whisked their undomesticated live show across some larger stages, including a gig last month opening for the Arctic Monkeys.

Miller and Black acknowledge that a desire to capitalize on such opportunities did influence their songwriting.

"I think it obviously played a part in coming up with this album," Miller said.

"I also think people now can dance to our new album," she added. "I think it's been harder to dance to our music in the past. We used to have less opportunity for that. It was very odd music. It didn't really go anywhere. So maybe it's going somewhere."

If it sounds as though the pair is unhappy with their earliest work — 2008's Tintype and Funeral Mixtape — well, that's pretty accurate.

Those elemental recordings helped the duo gather a following, but they're not representative of where the group is at now.

"For me, I tried to think we didn't do those first two albums," Miller said. "Not in a really bad way, but it just feels like I don't even understand what we were doing then."

"I guess you have to look at it positively though," Black interjects. "The only reason the albums are better now is because they were bad in the beginning."

And that dissatisfaction pushed them to where they are now. THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the band's past albums

"There's nowhere to move with happiness. I think it's a terrible place to be. It's complacency. You do not grow from being happy."
Pack A.D. drummer Maya Miller

SCENE

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Tracy Letts

A man who deserves the hyphens



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca



Tracy Letts CONTRIBUTED

Hollywood is full of hyphenates, the kind of people who introduce themselves as a model-actor-writer-waiter-personal-trainer-dog-walker.

But there's one Tinsel Town citizen who has actually earned every word in his hyphenated title.

Tracy Letts is an actor-writer-producer-Pulitzer-Prize-winner who is going to have to get bigger business cards if he gets any more successful.

You may not recognize the name unless you pay attention to the end credits of Homeland — he plays Senator Andrew Lockhart — or if you know who won the 2013 Tony Award for best actor in a play for Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

He's a multi-talent with a shelf of awards, some heavyweight acting credits and a new movie screenplay on his resumé.

His latest project, the script for August: Osage County, puts words into the mouths of some of the biggest stars in Hollywood. The film brings together the Weston sisters, Barbara (Julia Roberts), Karen (Juliette Lewis) and Ivy (Julianne Nicholson) with their pill-popping mommy dearest Violet (Meryl Streep).

As a writer, Letts says inspiration came from Tennessee Williams, William Faulkner and Jim Thompson, which might explain the dark vein that runs through his work.

How twisted are his plays? "Everybody in Tracy's stories gets naked or dead," says his mom, author Billie Letts.

Still, there is no denying that his screenplay for Killer Joe, the 2011 Matthew McConaughey thriller, is written with what Roger Ebert called, "merciless black humour." The story of a corrupt cop and a bad insurance claim earned critical praise even if the Women Film Critics Circle cited the film for its presentation of what they called "the worst female and male images" of the year.

Letts seems willing to take on any challenge to add to his hyphenated status. There's just one thing you can't ask him to do. "I don't act in the stuff that I write," he says. "I have no interest in doing that."

Nicholson gets her big break in August: Osage County

Playing Ivy.
Metro talks to the actress about her breakthrough role

MATT PRIGGE
Metro in New York City



From left, Julianne Nicholson, Meryl Streep and Margo Martindale in August: Osage County. CONTRIBUTED

Who:
Julianne Nicholson

Where you've seen her:
The films Kinsey, Flannel Pajamas and Brief Interviews With Hideous Men; the shows Law and Order: Criminal Intent, Boardwalk Empire and Masters of Sex.

Her big break:
Playing Ivy, the centre of the storm of grotesques in the new film adaptation of August: Osage County, Tracy Letts' Pulitzer-winning play, which also stars Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts, Chris Cooper and many, many more.

Was she intimidated doing a film on this scale?:
"Yes. The first hurdle was getting the job. I just didn't think about (the cast). Then I got the job and I felt great. I felt like I intrinsically knew who Ivy was. I was also doing a play at the time, a new Sam Sheppard (who has a role in the film) play, so I felt like I was in that world, in a way. But a week before, I started panicking. As soon as I arrived, though, everyone was really welcoming."

On doing a play on film:
"I didn't look at it as a play. I had seen the play and I had loved it. But enough time had passed that I didn't remember any specifics. It wasn't like I had to recreate anything. And it's an amazing piece that's perfectly written."

Doing a play on film by a TV director:
"John (Wells)' strength is with ensembles. He has a history of doing that with ER and Shameless and The Company Men. He has a real knack for bringing the right people together to get the best out of them."

Shooting the big set piece, a 19-page dinner scene, over four days:
"(Wells) broke it up into three sections, six or seven pages for each part. We rehearsed the whole thing through at Meryl's house. We all sat around the table and ate dinner while we rehearsed the lines and got the rhythm of it, discovered beats. When shooting it, it didn't feel choppy. It felt like everyone knew their lines. We probably could have done it straight through every time."

On it feeling like a play:
"Early on it felt like the beginning days of a play, when you're sitting around talking, before you put it on its feet. You're sharing stories and exploring ideas and asking questions. It was also just being together, getting to know each other, picking up each other's mannerisms, creating a feel of history so that when you start filming you already know each other, rather than showing up on the first day and acting like someone's your sister."

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HARD ROCK MEDICAL



Evan Peters and Emma Roberts ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

American Horror Story co-stars to wed — despite domestic abuse arrest

Evan Peters reportedly proposed to his American Horror Story co-star and girlfriend, Emma Roberts, over the holidays in New York before heading off to London for New Year's, according to People magazine.

The couple returned to the U.S. this week, with Roberts sporting a diamond on her ring finger.

Roberts, who has been dating Peters since 2012, was arrested on domestic violence charges last year after an incident that left Peters bloodied, though she was released a few hours later after he refused to press charges.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Twilight's Lutz on those Miley rumours

MEREDITH ENGEL
Metro World News

Ever since being spotted together at Beacher's Madhouse MGM around New Year's, The Legend of Hercules star Kellan Lutz has been linked with the world's most famous twerk monster, Miley Cyrus. But is there any truth to that rumour? We spoke to Lutz, who set the record straight.

"I adore the girl, and people assume stuff just because you're photographed at a party with multitudes of celebrities and public figures," he says.

"She's been a close friend of mine for years and we're friends. It's always great to hang out, especially with her being so busy and me being so busy.

"But the gossip and all these rumours that insiders say, they're funny because I don't look at these tabloids. ... I'm like, 'Where do people come up with this?' It's like people can just say 'insiders said' and then they can cover their butts that way. But no, she's an awesome girl and a really good friend."

So, folks, time to put away those fantasies of a tongue-wagging vampire baby.



Sean Penn

Charlize and Sean 'can't get enough of each other'

Sean Penn and Charlize Theron don't seem to be wasting any time with their new rumoured romance, reportedly spending nearly every day — and night — together since returning to L.A. on New Year's Day from a holiday getaway in Hawaii, according to E! News. "They are spending night after night together and moving very fast," a source says. "It seems like it's getting serious and they can't get enough of each other."

Twitter



@samantharonson
Tried to be a human being and went to sleep before midnight, now I'm wide awake. Is this what you guys do? Now what?



@DanaDelany
lost 150 followers with Twitter update. Weird. Anyone else?



@SteveMartinToGo
I'd like to apologize for calling Polar Vortex winter. It's actually more of a spring.



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Tulum's beach on the Riviera Maya in Mexico features not only beautiful sand but pure, aquamarine waters and the ruins of an ancient Mayan village. JIM BYERS/METRO

Tell the snow where to go

And say hello to sand.
Thaw the winter chill with an overview of some great beaches



JIM BYERS
@jimbyerstravel
jimbyerstravel.com

What with ice storms and snow and cold snaps, we could all use a bit of sand and surf right about now. Here's a look at eight of my favourite beaches in North America and the Caribbean.

Trunk Bay, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands

Perhaps the prettiest beach I've ever seen, with incredible water and even an underwater snorkelling trail you can follow. There's hardly a building in sight, the water is calm and there are great views of the British Virgin Islands.

Napili Beach, Maui, Hawaii

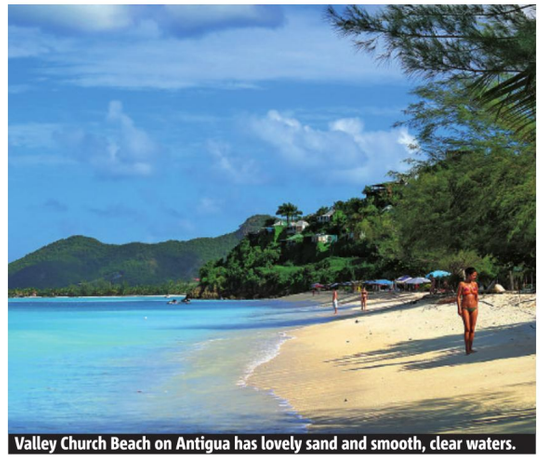
A perfect crescent of soft sand on a beach where no building can go more than two stories high. Safe for kids at the north end and decent bodysurfing at the south end, plus awesome views of nearby Molokai and killer sunsets.

Miami

Yeah, this is an obvious, easy one. But how can you resist the pretty people and great bars and the luscious Art Deco architecture? Try the SoHo Beach House for an artsy hotel stay or strut your stuff on Haulover Beach, one of the few legal nude beaches in the U.S.

Sugar Beach, St. Lucia

It's not big but it's flanked by glorious, jungle-clad, deep green outcroppings of rock called The Pitons. There's a great snorkelling reef that's a UNESCO heritage site.



Valley Church Beach on Antigua has lovely sand and smooth, clear waters.

Tulum, Mexico

If you get tired of checking out the pretty, young people cavorting in the aquamarine water, you can gaze at the lovely rock formations or soak in the view of Mayan ruins overlooking the sea.

Valley Church, Antigua

The soft, white sand goes on for a good long while and the beach is flanked by pretty green hills dotted with vacation homes. There's a nice beach bar called The Nest.

Capitola, Calif.

I once called this village the best California surf town The Beach Boys never sang about. There's a pier for viewing sea lions or surfers and several rows of colourful homes right on the sand.

Hanalei Beach, Kauai, Hawaii

A gorgeous, long stretch on the north coast. It can be rainy here but the views of the nearby mountains are glorious. The beach was featured in the movie The Descendants with George Clooney. I don't think you'll see him, but hope springs eternal, doesn't it?



Travel tips

How to take that epic dream trip



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Tired of doing the same thing day after day? Wish you could pack it in and spend 2014 exploring the far corners of the world? With a little bit of planning, taking a travel sabbatical is possible.

Set the date

Put a concrete departure date on the calendar. Give yourself an extra psychological push by tying it to a life event like a milestone birthday or work anniversary. Discuss your plans with family, friends and colleagues. This will help make them feel real and you will get valuable input on your trip planning. Building support can help keep you from wimping out.

Work it out at work

It would be nice if every employer offered sabbatical programs, but the truth is they are few and far between. If no explicit policies exist try to negotiate an unpaid leave of absence. Have the conversation with the boss and explain how your year off will benefit the workplace upon your return. Give lots of notice and offer to train up your replacement. You may have to end up quitting, but make sure that you do it respectfully and leave with a good reference.

Don't break the bank

It's hard to save enough to cover a missing salary, but try. Cut your expenses as much as possible. Consider a side income while you are gone; rent your house or condo, sell your car or consider doing some part time or casual work while you are gone. Train yourself up to teach English abroad or make sure you are spending time in a country where you might be allowed to work part time in your own field. Also consider saving money by house, pet or baby-sitting while on the road.

Have kids? Bring 'em

Writer Heather Greenwood Davis recently took a year off with her family of four. According to @greenwooddavis, "My kids missed grades 2 and 4 when we traveled. We can't replace that and we didn't try to replicate it on the road. Instead what my kids got out of our year of travel was a different education. Parts of what they learned will affect their education in high school, in university and onwards. On top of that it has also affected their social abilities, their confidence and how they relate to the news they get on the playground."



Heather Greenwood Davis and family. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Artists get ready to chill at Edmonton ice festival

Ice on Whyte.

Festival showcases the beauty and challenge of ice sculpting



An icy motorcycle — guaranteed to be a cool ride — sits on display at a past Ice on Whyte festival. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Later this month, 10 teams will chip, chisel, and chainsaw their way to glory in the ice sculpture competition at Ice On Whyte, one of Alberta's premier winter festivals.

According to sculptor and Ice on Whyte competitor Delayne Corbett, the key to shaping ice is recognizing and adapting to the fact that the frozen water is actually controlling you.

"You can't be set on a single idea because you're working with a medium that is constantly changing," said Corbett, a Vancouver resident who is on one of the 10 two-person teams in the professional category.

If the weather is too warm, the ice is sloppy and melts. If it's too cold, a slight spritz of water could cause it to crack. An ornate overhang on a sculpture that works in -1 C falls apart when the temperature ticks one degree above zero.

"I push the limits as far as I can," said Corbett, who also works in sand, concrete, stone, clay and other media.

"You kind of know when you get to that breaking point, when you just hear that subtle sound vibration (in the ice)."

The carvings are judged in a number of categories, including artistry and difficulty, but Corbett said the decision is made on more of a gut level.

"It's the wow factor," he said.

"You step back and go, 'How the heck did they do that?' That's usually what wins the competition."

The carvers will begin work at 6 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 24 and carve for 36 hours over three days with judging taking place on Sunday afternoon.

Festival watchers who arrive on Friday will only see each team with 15 blocks of ice weighing 140 kilos each and a sign indicating what the final work will be about.

One team's work will be called Fast Food. Another title is To the Top of the Olympic Mountain. Corbett's is Data Storm.

The ice-carving competition, which includes professional and novice categories, is the crown jewel of Ice on Whyte. The festival, now in its 11th year, is just off Whyte Avenue in Edmonton's Old Strathcona arts district.

Attendance hit a record 50,000 people last year.

If you go...

- **Visit.** iceonwhyte.ca for more information.

It began as an ice-carving competition but has grown into a festival that includes ice skating (with free skates for blade-less visitors), cultural activities, food and drink, and live music.

The festival's signature element is a monster ice slide with multiple chutes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Luxury meets ease: Bacon-Wrapped Scallops

Appetizer. What do you do if unexpected guests pop up at your door? Serve this super simple dish

Bacon-wrapped scallops are one of the most luxurious appetizers you can serve, not to mention one of the easiest to prepare.

Because there are only two main ingredients in this dish, you need to make sure you use the best quality — the biggest, freshest sea scallops you can find, and the most flavourful bacon. After that, they are so easy to grill that you hardly need a recipe.

There are two types of scallops, but only one of them is appropriate for the grill.

Tiny bay scallops are so sweet, you can eat them raw or just lightly sautéed. But they also are more expensive and not suited for grilling. What you want are the larger, less expensive sea scallops.

This all-protein finger food appetizer is perfect for entertaining. It's simple to prep and quick to cook. You even could prepare them in advance.

Pre-cook the bacon to render some of the fat and make it soft and pliable for wrapping around the scallops. Then just refrigerate until your guests arrive and pop them on the grill when you want them.

They pair well with a simple maple-mustard sauce that is delicious dolloped on top of the scallops just before serving.

1. Heat the oven to 400 F. Set a wire rack over a rimmed baking sheet. Heat the grill to medium-high.

2. In a small bowl, mix together the mustard and maple syrup. Set aside.

3. Use paper towels to blot dry the scallops. Arrange them on a plate, then set aside.

4. Arrange bacon in single layer on rack over the baking sheet. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until just starting to cook. Do not fully cook the bacon. Remove the bacon from the oven. If too hot to handle, let cool for several minutes. Once the bacon can be handled, wrap one slice of bacon around each scallop. Secure in place by threading one of the toothpicks through the bacon and scallop.

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp whole-grain mustard
- 2 tbsp maple syrup
- 1 lb jumbo sea scallops
- 1/2 lb centre-cut bacon
- Salt and ground black pepper
- Round wooden toothpicks, soaked in water for 30 minutes



This recipe makes 12 to 14 scallops. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5. Use a pastry brush to lightly brush the tops and bottoms of the scallops with bacon fat from the pan. Season with salt and pepper. Grill for 2 to 3 minutes per side. Serve with the sauce for dolloping a bit onto each. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ELIZABETH KARMEL, AUTHOR OF SOAKED, SLATHERED AND SEASONED.

Time to throw in the towel, old-timer?

The 'lump of labour' theory. Will a surge of older workers take jobs from the young? Economists say the opposite is true

It's an assertion that has been accepted as fact by droves of the unemployed: Older people remaining on the job later in life are stealing jobs from young people.

One problem, many economists say: It isn't supported by a wisp of fact.

"We all cannot believe that we have been fighting this theory for more than 150 years," said April Yanyuan Wu, a research economist at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College, who co-authored a paper last year on the subject.

The commonly accepted vision of a surge of workers looks like this: A young post-doctoral student dreams of a full-time teaching job at their university, but there are no openings. An 80-something professor who has remained on the job long past what's considered "normal" retirement is blamed.

The problem with that vision is that there are probably full-time teaching positions available elsewhere, or the person blocking the young grad student from the job is only 40 years old, economists say. Further, the veteran professor's decision to stay employed and productive may stir other job growth. He may bring research grants to his university allowing for other hiring, may take on assistants, and may be able to dine out and shop and fuel the economy more than if he weren't on the job.

None of that would have happened had he retired.

The theory Wu and other economists are fighting is known as "lump of labour," and it has maintained traction in the U.S., particularly in a climate of high unemployment. The theory dates to 1851 and says if a group enters the labour market — or in this case, remains in it beyond their normal retirement date — others will be unable to gain employment or will have their hours cut.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


Who's going to dominate the future workforce? ISTOCK



Mooseheads stand pat on deadline day

QMJHL. With a healthy lineup, Herd is top contender but there's plenty of work left to do



ANDREW RANKIN
andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

In the end, the Halifax Mooseheads couldn't find a deal that suited them.

The league's 17-day trade gap ended Tuesday with the Herd having already made a couple of minor moves that sent forward Liam Alcalde to the Charlottetown Islanders for an eighth-round pick, along with signing rugged forward Brandon Vuic.

But veteran defenceman Matt Murphy wasn't surprised by the organization's decision to stand largely pat, given that the Mooseheads are a top contender with a healthy lineup and what little was available came with a hefty price tag.

"We're confident with the guys we have here," said Murphy. "One of our big strengths is that we're really well rounded."

Murphy knows it's gut check time now that the Mooseheads are nearing a full lineup as they prepare to face the Charlottetown Islanders on the road Wednesday. Andrew Ryan is still nursing a foot injury. Zachary Fucale and Jonathan Drouin, who were expected to suit up for Friday's home game against the Moncton Wildcats, met travel delays on their way back from the world juniors and will be out of the lineup this weekend.

The Mooseheads, who sit behind eight teams in the standings, held down second place a month ago but dropped off after the departure of Fucale and Drouin to the world juniors as well as contending with a host of injuries.

"All our guys have to start buying into our own roles and buying into our system," said Murphy. "When we all play to our capabilities we're one of the better teams in the league."

The Mooseheads' leading scorer Nikolaj Ehlers is approaching the second half of the season like a dogfight.

"I think we have to be better prepared," said Ehlers. "We have to play a full 60 minutes every single game. Because if not, you get in trouble really fast."



Due to travel delays, Mooseheads forward Jonathan Drouin and netminder Zach Fucale will not be in the lineup this weekend as was previously expected. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Deadline day

Highlighting a busy trade deadline day, Chicoutimi Saguenéens' forward Charles Hudon headed to the Baie-Comeau Drakkar in exchange for a 2014 third round pick and three first round picks (2015, 2016, 2017).

- The Cape Breton Screaming Eagles dealt star forward William Carrier to the Drummondville Voltigeurs for Guillaume Gauthier, a 2015 first-round pick and a 2014 fifth-rounder.

QMJHL

Hardie handed 4-game ban for hit vs. Sea Dogs

Halifax Mooseheads defenceman Austyn Hardie has been given a four-game suspension stemming from a late hit he delivered in Saturday's road game against the Saint John Sea Dogs.

The recipient of the hit, Sea Dogs forward Joey Richard was injured on the play and Hardie was assessed a major penalty for boarding and a game misconduct.

In a release issued Tuesday, Raymond Bolduc, the QMJHL's director of player safety, cited several violations on the play — it was a late hit made after the play was called dead — that factored into the decision.

It's the first suspension Hardie has faced in the QMJHL. METRO

NHL

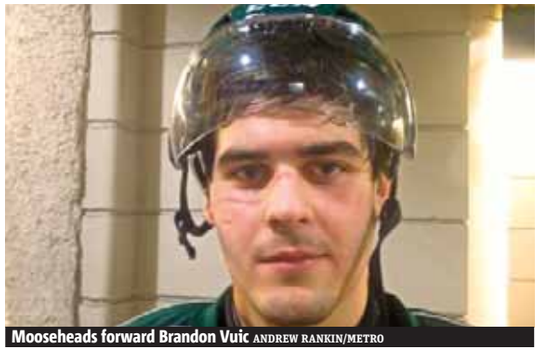
Islanders leave Leafs stranded without a victory

Frans Nielsen, Calvin De Haan and Cal Clutterbuck all scored third-period goals to lead the New York Islanders past the Toronto Maple leafs 5-3 on Tuesday night.

New York (16-22-7) kicked off a six-game road trip with their second win in as many nights after downing the Dallas Stars 7-3 on Monday.

It was another frustrating decision for Toronto (21-18-5), which outshot the Islanders 26-25 coming off a lopsided 7-1 home loss to the New York Rangers on Saturday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vuic ready to make his mark with Herd



Mooseheads forward Brandon Vuic ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

Brandon Vuic knows exactly what he offers the Halifax Mooseheads.

"I bring size and weight," said the 18-year-old, six-foot-four, 214 pounder.

And as you might well have guessed, he doesn't mind using it.

In 27 games with the North American Hockey League's Topeka RoadRunners this season, he wracked up 104 penalty minutes along with a goal and a pair of assists.

Signed over the holidays, the Waterdown Ont., native already has his first QMJHL game under his belt and will make his home debut for the Mooseheads on Friday against the Moncton Wildcats.

He was brought in as an energy player who, beyond adding plenty of toughness to the lineup, is valued by GM Cam Russell for his work ethic and skating ability.

"Who wouldn't want to be here, really," said Vuic. "It's the Mooseheads. The boys have really welcomed me."

Though he's been given a regular spot in the lineup, he knows he has to earn his stripes. That will inevitably mean dropping the gloves from time to time.

"I just have to rely on what got me here, my work ethic. I just have to keep working work hard."

As for fighting ...

"You have to love that stuff," he said. "I love that adrenalin but it's not all about that, I just want to keep working hard and win the boys over by showing everyone what I have."

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO



Jeff Carter was one of the surprise additions to Team Canada's 25-man roster for the Sochi Olympics named Tuesday. HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Team Canada staff stands by final choices

Olympic hockey. Kunitz, Marleau, Carter among questioned picks with likes of St. Louis, Giroux on outside looking in

Canada's 25-man roster

Goalies. Roberto Luongo, Carey Price, Mike Smith.

Defencemen. Jay Bouwmeester, Drew Doughty, Dan Hamhuis, Duncan Keith, Alex Pietrangelo, P.K. Subban, Marc-Edouard Vlasic, Shea Weber.

Forwards. Jamie Benn, Patrice Bergeron, Jeff Carter, Sidney Crosby, Matt Duchene, Ryan Getzlaf, Chris Kunitz, Patrick Marleau, Rick Nash, Corey Perry, Patrick Sharp, Steven Stamkos, John Tavares, Jonathan Toews.

For more than four months, Team Canada's management staff anguished over these decisions.

Still, it took until 1 a.m. ET Tuesday — 10 hours before the team was to be unveiled — for executive director Steve Yzerman and his staff to come up with a final 25-man roster for the Sochi Olympics.

"We had gone out last night for dinner and came back. We were down to a couple of names and it was a real strong, healthy debate," St. Louis Blues general manager Doug Armstrong said. "At some point we had to stop at 25. When we got to that last name, we shook hands and said we're excited about this team."

With another gold medal the only measure of success, Yzerman, Armstrong and the rest of the management team read off names one by one, listing the group they hope will get the job done. Chris Kunitz, Patrick Marleau and Jeff Carter had their names called, while Claude Giroux, Logan Couture, Martin St. Louis and many others got phone calls from the staff delivering the bad news.

"The calls this morning to the guys that weren't making it, those are real difficult calls," Boston Bruins GM Peter Chiarelli said at Tuesday's news conference. "It kind of leaves an empty feeling in your stomach."

As difficult as those decisions and conversations were, they were necessary.

In the final analysis, Canada chose to put together a team of "different dimensions," in the words of Detroit Red Wings GM Ken Holland. Kunitz brings natural chemistry with Sidney Crosby, Marleau a mix of speed and scoring and Carter a nose for the net.

By the time the management team — made up of Yzerman, Holland, Chiarelli, Armstrong, Kevin Lowe, Hockey Canada executive Brad Pascall and coach Mike Babcock — got down to the final meeting, there was a general consensus on all three goaltenders, seven defencemen and 11 or 12 forwards.

Then it got down to brass tacks.

"The decisions, the late-night wrangling, it's like you go over things four, five, six, seven times," Chiarelli said. "Is this the right reason? Is this the right guy? What's the right reason? We talked about four or five guys at the end, and you have second thoughts, and you just got to be firm on what you believe and the fit."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	42	28	12	2	124	89	58
Tampa Bay	43	26	13	4	123	102	56
Montreal	44	25	14	5	114	103	55
Detroit	43	19	14	10	114	121	48
Toronto	44	21	18	5	122	132	47
Ottawa	44	19	18	7	126	141	45
Florida	43	16	21	6	102	136	38
Buffalo	42	12	26	4	74	118	28

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	44	31	12	1	142	103	63
Philadelphia	43	22	17	4	114	118	48
Washington	42	20	16	6	128	128	46
Carolina	43	18	16	9	105	124	45
N.Y. Rangers	44	21	20	3	108	119	45
New Jersey	44	17	18	9	103	113	43
Columbus	43	19	20	4	117	126	42
N.Y. Islanders	45	16	22	7	124	149	39

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	45	29	7	9	167	124	67
St. Louis	42	30	7	5	155	97	65
Colorado	42	26	12	4	123	108	56
Minnesota	44	22	17	5	106	113	49
Dallas	42	20	15	7	123	131	47
Nashville	44	19	19	6	105	131	44
Winnipeg	46	19	22	5	125	139	43

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	44	31	8	5	146	111	67
San Jose	44	27	11	6	144	114	60
Los Angeles	43	26	13	4	113	89	56
Vancouver	44	23	13	8	117	108	54
Phoenix	42	21	12	9	129	127	51
Calgary	43	15	22	6	100	137	36
Edmonton	46	14	27	5	119	161	33

Note: Two points for a win, one point for an overtime or shootout loss.

Tuesday's results
Nashville 3 San Jose 2
N.Y. Islanders 5 Toronto 3
Philadelphia 3 New Jersey 2 (OT)
Phoenix 6 Calgary 0
St. Louis 5 Edmonton 2
Tampa Bay 4 Winnipeg 2
Carolina at Buffalo (ppd., storm)
Boston at Anaheim
Pittsburgh at Vancouver
Minnesota at Los Angeles

Monday's results
Calgary 4 Colorado 3
Columbus 4 N.Y. Rangers 3 (SO)
Montreal 2 Florida 1
N.Y. Islanders 7 Dallas 3

Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Montreal at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Ottawa at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.

Thursday's games
Dallas at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Florida at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Washington at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Nashville, 8 p.m.
St. Louis at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Boston at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Detroit at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Crosby, Pgh	23	40	63
Kane, Chi	23	31	54
Tavares, NYI	20	31	51
Getzlaf, Ana	20	28	48
Thornton, SJ	5	43	48
Kunitz, Pgh	23	24	47
Sharp, Chi	25	21	46
Backstrom, Wash	10	36	46

Not including last night's games

NFL PLAYOFFS

WILD CARD WEEKEND

Sunday's results
AFC — San Diego 27 Cincinnati 10
NFC — San Francisco 23 Green Bay 20

Saturday's results
AFC — Indianapolis 45 Kansas City 44
NFC — New Orleans 26 Philadelphia 24

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Saturday's games — All Times Eastern
NFC — New Orleans at Seattle, 4:35 p.m.
AFC — Indianapolis at New England, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday's games
NFC — San Francisco at Carolina, 1:05 p.m.
AFC — San Diego at Denver, 4:40 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	28	6	.824	—
d-Miami	27	8	.771	1½
Atlanta	18	17	.514	10½
d-Toronto	16	17	.485	11½
Washington	15	17	.469	12
Chicago	15	18	.455	12½
Charlotte	15	21	.417	14
Detroit	14	21	.400	14½
Brooklyn	13	21	.382	15
Boston	13	22	.371	15¼
New York	12	22	.353	16
Cleveland	12	23	.343	16½
Philadelphia	12	23	.343	16½
Orlando	10	24	.294	18
Milwaukee	7	27	.206	21

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	27	8	.771	—
d-San Antonio	27	8	.771	—
Portland	26	8	.765	½
d-Golden State	24	13	.649	4
L.A. Clippers	24	13	.649	4
Houston	22	13	.629	5
Phoenix	20	13	.606	6
Dallas	20	15	.571	7
Denver	17	17	.500	9½
Minnesota	17	17	.500	9½
New Orleans	15	18	.455	11
Memphis	15	19	.441	11½
L.A. Lakers	14	21	.400	13
Utah	12	25	.324	16
Sacramento	10	22	.313	15½

Tuesday's results
Chicago 92 Phoenix 87
Cleveland 111 Philadelphia 93
Dallas 110 L.A. Lakers 97
Denver 129 Boston 98
Golden State 101 Milwaukee 80
Indiana 86 Toronto 79
Miami 107 New Orleans 88
New York 89 Detroit 85
San Antonio 110 Memphis 108 (OT)
Utah 112 Oklahoma City 101
Washington 97 Charlotte 83
Portland at Sacramento

Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Detroit at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Dallas at San Antonio, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Houston, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.
Orlando at Portland, 10 p.m.
Boston at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Team Russia

Ovie leads way for home team

Washington Capitals right-winger Alex Ovechkin will lead Russia in Sochi, as the hosts look to avoid a repeat of a poor performance from 2010.

Pavel Datsyuk of the Red Wings and Evgeni Malkin of the Penguins were among 15 NHLers named to Team Russia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Skiing

Decision to sit out Sochi leaves Vonn 'devastated'

Lindsey Vonn will miss the Sochi Olympics because of a right knee injury, leaving the Winter Games without one of its biggest stars.

The 29-year-old skier from Vail, Colo., announced her decision Tuesday, exactly one month before the opening ceremony in Russia. Her personal publicist, Lewis Kay, said in a statement Vonn will have surgery "shortly."

In a Facebook posting, Vonn said she is "devastated" to miss the Olympics.

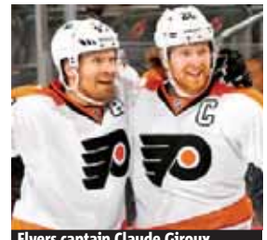
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Giroux regroups to help Flyers past Devils

It didn't take Claude Giroux long to get over being left off the Canadian Olympic hockey team.

Hours after getting the disappointing news that he would not be going to Sochi, Giroux woke up the road-weary Flyers with a power-play goal and Brayden Schenn scored the game-winner at 1:50 of overtime as Philadelphia beat the New Jersey Devils 3-2 Tuesday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Flyers captain Claude Giroux celebrates his goal with teammate Kimmo Timonen on Tuesday night in New Jersey. GETTY IMAGES



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(a wholly owned subsidiary of Westminster Savings Credit Union) to qualified customers on applicable new 2012, 2013 and 2014 models at participating retailers in Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may lease for less. See your retailer for complete details. Examples: 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E)/2014 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) with a Purchase Price of $18,995/$18,995 leased at 4.99% over 60 months with $1,499/$2,779 down payment, equals 130 bi-weekly payments of $99/$99 with a cost of borrowing of $3,838.80/$3,487.60 and a total obligation of $14,683.50/$14,612. Charge of $0.18 per excess kilometre. Some conditions apply. 10% purchase financing for up to 36 months available on new 2013 Dodge Dart models to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. See your retailer for complete details. Example: 2013 Dodge Dart SE (25A) with a Purchase Price of $16,995, with a $0 down payment, financed at 0% for 36 months equals 78 bi-weekly payments of $217.88 with a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $16,995. ••NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Contest begins November 27, 2013 at 9:00:00 a.m. AT and ends February 28, 2014 at 11:59:59 p.m. AT. Contest open to legal residents of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador or New Brunswick who have reached the age of majority at the time of entry. One (1) entry per person. To enter, you must visit any participating Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram retailer during the contest period and purchase/finance/lease any new 2012, 2013 or 2014 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or Ram vehicle (excluding SRT Viper models). Three (3) grand prizes available to be won, each consisting of a pair of VIP tickets and trip to watch the 2014 Battle of Ontario in Ottawa on April 12, 2014. Tickets are for April 12 ONLY. Prize includes round trip travel for two and two night's hotel accommodation (if required). Approx. retail value (based on Halifax departure): $5,000 per prize. Mathematical skill-testing question required. For complete contest rules, including no purchase means of entry, go to: www.chryslerofers.ca/battleofontario/all. §2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew Plus shown. Price includes Consumer Cash Discount. 2013 Dodge Dart GT shown: 2014 Dodge Journey R/T AWD shown. Price includes Consumer Cash Discount. ¥Based on U.S. market and vehicles under $16,000 US. For more information, visit www.kbb.com. Kelley Blue Book is a registered trademark of Kelley Blue Book Co., Inc. ••Based on 2013 Ward's upper small sedan costing under $25,000. ◊Based on PL Polk Canada, Inc. 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Santa Fe takes on a snowstorm

Review. A 300-plus kilometre night-time trek in treacherous weather reveals the Hyundai model's winter prowess

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca



PHOTO: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

2014 Hyundai Santa Fe

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact wagon
- **Engines (hp).** 2-litre four cylinder, turbocharged and direct injected (264)
- **Transmissions.** 6-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $26,599

Tires

All wheel drive, ABS brakes and electronic stability control DO NOT make traction. The only way to increase the physical grip between a vehicle and a slippery road is with proper tires. Electronic aids or not, riding all-season tires in conditions like these would result in poor directional stability.

Xenon lights

My only complaint: xenon lights are typically great in a snowstorm. The ones in the Santa Fe were adequate, not mind-blowing. In clear conditions, they're more than adequate. For some reason, the light output diminishes notably when there's even a small amount of snow or ice on the lenses — and there's no washer system.

Mother Nature was all crabby-pants during my recent December test of the latest Hyundai Santa Fe, so she dumped about two feet of snow all over my hometown, then made the mercury plummet like Miley Cyrus's artistic standards.

Temperatures landed somewhere around 30 below, which is (delightfully) too cold for road salt to work. Prior to this, there was snow. Lots of snow. The second big, "all-night-long" dumping of the season. It left over a foot on the ground.

Naturally, I did what I always do when there's an all-night-long dumping of snow up here in Sudbury, Ont. I grabbed some buddies, some large double-doubles, and drove repeatedly around every unplowed back road I could find.

A few nights after this, I travelled 300 kilometres down Highway 69 after dark. That distance was spread evenly between extreme cold over frozen hard-packed ice-stripes and then slightly warmer temperatures accompanied by zero-visibility, blowing snow, and deep powder. A few noteworthy points about the wintertime driving experience of the tested 2013 Santa Fe 2.0T Limited AWD came to light in the process.

Proper ESC Calibration

In many winter situations, wheelspin is a good thing– and most of the time, the ESC in the Santa Fe allows enough of it. Wheelspin allows snow to be flung from the treads for better contact with the ground beneath the tires — so when you give Santa Fe the boots coming out of a parking lot and onto a busy street, it lets the wheels spin a little faster than they can grip to ensure you get moving quickly. In real life, this is more favorable than overly aggressive ESC systems that numb the throttle at any sign of wheelspin, cross their arms, report your activities to the fun police, and leave you throttleless in front of traffic. Ultimately, you'll feel like you're calling the shots, not the vehicle — and that's a good thing.

Hill Start Assist

Stop on a hill, and Santa Fe freezes the pressure in the brake lines for a few seconds while your foot moves from the brakes to the gas. This prevents rollback, makes life easier for the transmission, and also makes it far more likely that you'll get moving again after being stopped on an icy incline. After all, nothing's more embarrassing than holding up traffic while you spin all four tires and slide backwards like a sucker. The tester wore Hankook Winter I-Cept Evo tires in its 19-inch OEM size. I found them a nicely balanced all-round winter performance tire. They're perhaps slightly more slippery during hard braking and acceleration than a Michelin X-Ice or Pirelli Sottozero, but they are remarkably stable in a straight line and while steering.

AWD Done Right

Santa Fe's AWD system is clever and well set up for driving in nasty winter weather. The AWD system uses inputs from numerous sensors to pre-engage 4-wheel power in many situations when accelerating from a stop. Even with extremely light throttle in deep snow, it'll often power all four wheels from a stand still — preemptively increasing traction instead of letting the front wheels slip before engaging the rear ones. Otherwise, when the system brings the rear wheels online for propulsion, they engage quickly–within about 2 or 3 revolutions of the front wheels, and get a good share of engine power. This AWD system isn't shy about calling the rear wheels into play, and when all four tires spin, power is split actively to maximize extraction of available traction. There's even a 'lock' setting to pre-set the system into a 50/50 power split, though I never needed to use it. No issues with needless tire spinning or harshness during shifting power between the front and rear. In virtually any situation, this setup feels like it knows what it's doing.

Finally

After arriving at my destination, there was approximately 147 pounds of salty brown filthy road-guck frozen to the underside of the Santa Fe's front doors. Thankfully, those front doors actually cover the structural rocker panel where this frozen mess typically accumulates on most rides. Open the door, and the mess goes with it, revealing a clean-as-a-whistle surface to step over and keeping your pants clean.



Limited time 2.9% semi-monthly lease offered through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit to qualified retail customers on all new 2014 Corolla models. First semi-monthly payment due at lease inception and next semi-monthly payment due approximately 15 days later and semi-monthly thereafter throughout the term. Toyota Financial Services will waive the final semi-monthly payment. Semi-monthly lease offers not open to employees of Toyota Canada, Toyota Financial Services or TMMC/TMMC Vehicle Purchase Plan. Some conditions apply. See www.toyota.ca or your Toyota dealer for complete details. Example (applies across Canada except Quebec): 2014 Corolla CE 6M with a vehicle price of $17,515 (including $1,520 freight/PDI) leased at 2.9% over 60 months with $1,495 down payment equals 120 semi-monthly payments of $89 with a cost of borrowing of $1,672.60 and a total obligation of $12,327.40. $0 security deposit and first semi-monthly payment due at lease inception. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, fees and taxes. 100,000 km allowance for 60 months, with ability to purchase additional kilometres at $0.05/km at time of lease inception, and a charge of $0.07/km for excess kilometres. Dealer may lease for less.

Parts department

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Race with Anki

Think of Anki Drive as a kind of three-dimensional video game. Developed by Anki (pronounced: On key), a San Francisco robotics company, the product consists of a roll-up oval-track layout containing special built-in electronics that transmit data to optical sensors located beneath each race car. The cars are driven through an app that's downloaded to your iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad, which turns the device into a race controller. Anki Drive's "artificial intelligence" that's built into the system (no Internet connection required) allows one player to compete against up to three other players or against the system that assigns specific characteristics to each car. Anki Drive is priced at $200 US for the base set that includes two cars. Visit anki.com



Rear seat lock up



According to the makers of Xtralock, the third-row seats on GM vehicles, specifically the Chevrolet Tahoe and Suburban, GMC Yukon and Cadillac Escalade, have become highly prized by thieves. They can be removed in as little as six seconds and sold for as much as $2,500 US to unscrupulous repair shops or directly on classified-ad websites. The third-row locking system created by Xtralock was designed by a locksmith to help prevent such theft. The three-piece unit can be installed without the use of tools and, once locked in place, makes the seat virtually impossible to remove without a key. In addition, the Xtralock's obvious visibility should also deter criminals from even attempting to steal the seat. The Xtralock sells for $180 US and can be purchased at xtralock.com.

Flip your jeep's lid

Talk to any current-generation (2007-14) Jeep Wrangler JK owner and they'll wax poetic about their favourite off-roader. But ask them about removing and reinstalling the canvas top and the air is likely to turn blue. In short, it's no fun wrestling with the various snaps, zippers and attachments. A solution is the power-operated MyTop from Roadwire of Austin, Tex. The company states that its top, which is constructed using Haartz Stayfast fabric and extra-thick clear plastic windows, will automatically fold back and reverse in about six seconds. The frame is made of aircraft-grade aluminum, while the electric motors used in the folding/refolding process are of the same design used to operate the canopies of fighter jets. MyTop is available for two-door JKs only and is priced at $4,700 US. Buy one at roadwire.com.



A little fashion mojo

Recycling old, worn-out autos keeps them out of landfills. Artist and fashion accessory designer Pyper Hugos has taken that to a whole new level with her line of Mojo Reclaimed Jewelry for men and women. The pieces are created from bits of parts and scraps found in junkyards. Most of her hand-crafted rings, bracelets and necklaces contain the colours imbedded in the metal that add to their patina. As well, each piece comes with its own name and history: the "Elva" pendant shown here was originally a part of a 1973 Chevrolet pickup. Prices vary from $65 US for a set of earrings, up to $175 US plus shipping for a cuff-style bracelet. Visit Hugos' online store at yougot-mojo.bigcartel.com.



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Experts trying to give vehicles their voice

Automotive communication. Researchers are figuring out the best way for your car to talk to you

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

Although it can't carry on a conversation, your car communicates with you. Depending on how it's equipped, this can be anything from a warning when your seat belt isn't fastened, to chimes and lights if there's a vehicle alongside when you're trying to change lanes.

But those warning signals aren't randomly selected: "It requires significant testing and development," says Birsen Donmez, an assistant professor of industrial engineering at the University of Toronto, who is working on a safety feedback program for Toyota.

"Not everyone might react the same way to the same type of feedback, and the issue is to understand how to personalize these systems, because humans are so variable."

While Donmez isn't designing the actual systems, she's researching how drivers react to the feedback they're getting, and what types are most effective for the maximum number of drivers.

The system must be effective enough to get the driver's attention, but can't be so distracting that it diverts all of the driver's focus, and he or she ends up hitting the object that initially triggered the warning.

Factors that go into feedback design include what sets off a warning, such as speeding or wandering out of the lane; when the warning goes off; if it's visual or makes a sound, or both; how long it's on, and what information it provides to the driver.

Researchers use a variety of methods for testing, including focus groups, questionnaires to assess the risks that drivers might take, and driving simulators. For some projects, the test subjects drive in real-world conditions.

In one analysis, Donmez worked with Transport Canada to monitor a group of drivers and their reaction to vehicle feedback when they were speeding or following too close to the vehicle in front.

Not only did this provide information on the feedback, but it also let the researchers determine which drivers reacted most strongly to it, which could allow engineers to design systems that deliver the greatest assistance.

With so many individual drivers though, the system has to be geared toward providing benefit for a maximum number of people. "We go for the average, rather than each individual driver, unless it poses a danger for some drivers," Donmez says.

"At the worst case, you don't see a benefit (for every driver), but you don't see a decline in performance. You don't want to endanger anyone with the system."

To note

- **Warnings aren't the only issue.** Researchers also look at incentives such as fuel economy gauges, to be sure they aren't too distracting.
- **With and without.** In addition to seeing how subjects react to feedback, researchers also look at how they drive when it's taken away afterwards, to see how effective it is.
- **Admissions.** Test subjects are more likely to admit they do something, such as texting while driving, if they think other people are okay with it, but are less likely to admit anti-social behaviours such as impaired driving.



What does your vehicle communicate to you and how do you respond to it? JIL MCINTOSH/METRO

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Automakers cosy up to electronics industry

Consumer Electronic Show. Car companies turn out in force to showcase such things as laser high-beam headlights and the solar panel roof



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca



Similar to a magnifying glass, the Ford C-MAX Solar Energi Concept's "concentrator" solar panel roof also has a patent-pending system that tracks the sun as it moves from east to west. COURTESY FORD



The low beam headlights on the Audi Sport Quattro are LED technology. The high beams are lasers. COURTESY AUDI

Billed as the world's largest technology trade show, the Consumer Electronic Show (CES) in Las Vegas is eagerly anticipated by the geeky gadget crowd, and pointedly ignored by folks at the other end of the spectrum, who think the world went to crap around 1980, when computers and micro-chips first arrived in force and started taking over our souls.

The automakers have become very interested of late in CES, and this year's show happening right now has a record nine automakers participating.

Their presence seems not so much as an opportunity to show off their new tech stuff — which they do all the time at auto shows — but more as a way to integrate themselves into the Silicon Valley culture and leverage the exciting technology coming forth from the consumer electronics industry.

Automakers increasingly need to be in that faster-moving milieu. Product cycles in the auto industry are five years or longer. The consumer electronic industry works a bit faster, yes?

And technology seems to be a more collaborative endeavour than it's ever been: witness the announcement at CES that Audi, GM, Google, Honda, Hyundai and NVIDA have joined together to form the Open Automotive Alliance (OAA) to bring the Android platform to cars.

"The worlds of consumer and automotive technologies have never been more closely aligned, and this alliance will only pave the way for faster innovation," said Ricky Hudi, head of electrics and electronics development at Audi AG.

Audi is displaying its Sport Quattro concept car at CES. The hybrid sports coupe is brimming with technology, but I'm focused on its laser high-beam headlights. Yes, lasers. Apparently, the high beams have a range of 500 metres — roughly twice the distance of regular high beams. Lasers are also very energy efficient. Their primary downsides are cost and an intolerance of heat. In the future those draw backs should be overcome, and experts predict they will peacefully coexist with LED lights, which still have a lot of love to give.

Hyundai announced its new Genesis sedan would be integrated with the amazing Google Glass. Drivers won't be able to use the futuristic glasses while driving, but integrated software will let drivers do all sorts of "pre-drive" functions with them, such as remote start, navigation and music settings.

Ford's major CES display is the Ford C-MAX Solar Energi Concept. Like all C-Max plug-in hybrids, this concept can be charged by its on-board charger running off the gasoline engine and by plugging it into the grid.

The concept goes one step further, with a solar panel roof that provides the same electricity as a four-hour plug-in session, although it would need a full day's worth of daylight to make it happen.

Similar to a magnifying glass, the Concept's "concentrator" solar panel roof also has a patent-pending system that tracks the sun as it moves from east to west.

The concept is a collaborative project between Ford, SunPower Corp. and the Georgia Institute of Technology. The institute will begin to test the vehicle in real-world scenarios for its feasibility as a production car. Such a vehicle would be particularly awesome in places where the electrical grid sucks or just doesn't exist.

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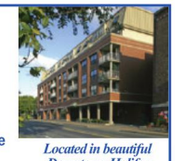
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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
This is one of those days when you would rather be anywhere than where you are supposed to be. If you can find a legit way out of the situation then go for it. But if you fail to turn up, you could create a powerful enemy.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Honest effort gets results, so keep plugging away at what you are working on and don't get dispirited if results are slow. Nothing you do is wasted and one day soon you will make that breakthrough you long for.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It may appear as if someone is being deliberately obstructive, but you should ask yourself if there was something you said or did that could have turned them against you. If so, it's not too late to say sorry.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Why are you pessimistic about your prospects? You may not have gotten everything you wanted recently but there is always tomorrow. You'll feel positive closer to the weekend.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
No matter how unsettling the changes that are taking place may be, keep telling yourself that in the long-term they will work in your favour. Your life story is unfolding as it should.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Do something today that livens things up both at home and at work. Some may think you lost your senses but they are just the sort of people who have been dragging you down.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is an important time for you and you will be making major changes to your lifestyle. The full moon on the 16th will clear away obstacles. Between now and then, plan big.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It seems you have made an error of judgment and all you can do is say sorry. If you sound sincere, others will forgive you and you can move on. But if your apology is grudging, bad feelings are likely to linger.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Most times your hunches are spot on but the planets warn your instincts are not to be trusted today, so take care. This is one of those occasions when you must stick to facts.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Your relationship with authority may not be as good as it should be today, so watch what you say and be ready to back off if a conversation gets heated. You'll be the loser if it gets ugly.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may think someone is keeping something from you, but don't let it worry you. It's unlikely to be bad news and it's even possible they are planning some kind of surprise.

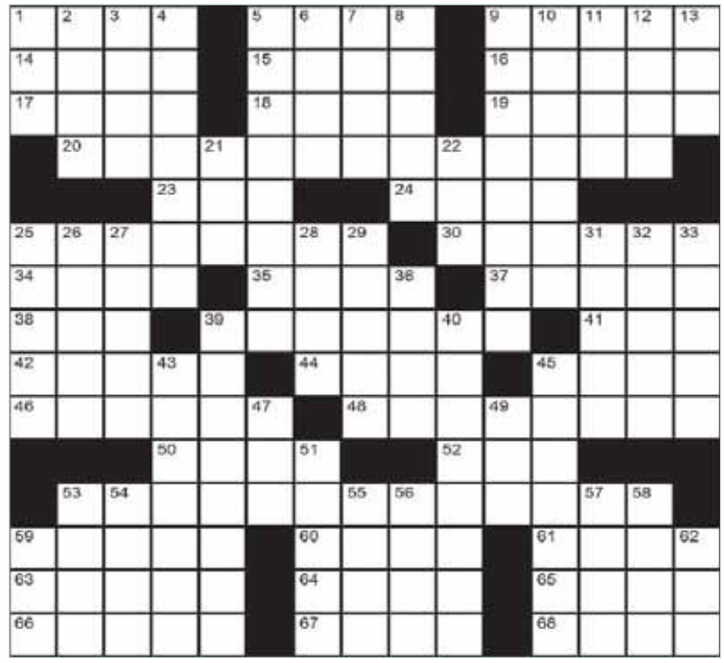
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You must let a certain person know that you have no intention of allowing them to get rich at your expense. Today's Mars-Jupiter link will bring tensions to a head — say what's on your mind.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

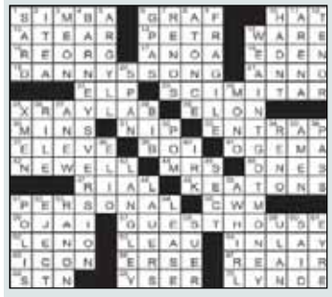
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Country legend Johnny
5. Interlock
9. __ Canada (Pest control company)
14. Vicinity
15. __ sax
16. Husky
17. Canadian actor Raymond
18. T.Rex's style
19. Some ducks
20. The ancient Ichthyosaur, for one: 2 wds.
23. Bear: Spanish
24. Rug sort
25. Ski resort transports
30. The __ Works ('80s band)
34. Lennon's in-laws
35. "...see __ __ believe..."
37. Comedy's Mr. Anderson
38. Orchestra __
39. Old Montreal horse-drawn carriage
41. TV show taper
42. Mo of CBS' "Sunday Morning"
44. "I could __ _ horse!"
45. Gladiator's 1502
46. Waiting to be connected: 2 wds.
48. Alberta community near the Saskatchewan border
50. Mister Ed's hair
52. Slangy put down
53. "Moonstruck" (1987) Canadian director: 2 wds.
59. Hawaiian island
60. Makeover show, "__ on a Dime"
61. Type of mineral
63. "It's _ __ from God!"
64. Ended
65. __ In Canada
66. Quebec 'cup'
67. Jewel's "You __ Meant for Me"
68. Bread spread

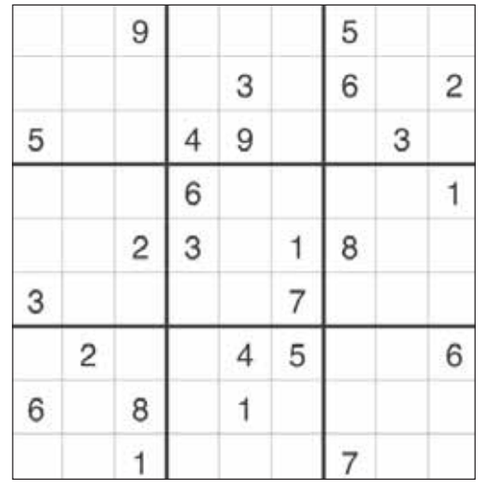
Down
1. Fare vehicle
2. Lily kind
3. Evening, in Italy
4. England: London department store
5. Julia in her 1989 'Steel' movie
6. Fashion magazine
7. Celestial body
8. Abodes
9. Barrier
10. Member of Canadian quartet The Tenors, Mr. Pereira
11. Ship part
12. "The Safety Dance" bit: "...can dance __ __ want to..."
13. Albany is its cap.
21. Prefix to 'thermal'
22. Fraternity letter
25. Give up amateur status: 2 wds.
26. Blooming __
(Starter menu item)
27. Top-__ (The best)
28. The Jetty __ __ Havre (Claude Monet painting)
29. Choo-choo-ing stuff
31. Blue Rodeo singer Jim
32. Bon Jovi's "__' on a Prayer"
33. "__, Indiana" (Early-'90s TV series)
36. Prefix to 'gon' (Eight-sided shape)
39. Medicine Cabinet: __ lotion
40. Canadian store HH = Home __
43. Canadian fashion label since 1983
45. "Cityline" 3 Chefs member, Mr. Capra
47. Scientific ID
49. Nintendo game console
51. Fund
53. Rocket org.
54. Nons opposites
55. Bee Gees' "__ Talkin'"
56. Rarely, hardly __
57. __ agreement
58. Connecting point
59. Nightspot in Broadway musical Cabaret, Kit __ Klub
62. New

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

2	5	8	6	1	3	7	4	9
9	1	6	4	8	7	3	2	5
7	3	4	9	2	5	1	6	8
8	6	5	2	3	9	4	7	1
4	9	3	5	7	1	6	8	2
1	2	7	8	6	4	9	5	3
5	4	1	7	9	8	2	3	6
6	7	9	3	5	2	8	1	4
3	8	2	1	4	6	5	9	7

Today
-7°/-11°
Variable

Thursday
-6°/-13°
Variable

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